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GULF NEWS 

Thursday, June 4, 2020

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choose the right
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knowledge tools to
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at a time of great
uncertainty

ON A PATH
TOWARDS
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Giving pupils the skills to thrive beyond the classroom

● Schools in the UAE are finding ways to ensure students receive the education they need to stay on track during campus closures and be ready for the future

BY PETER FEELY
Editor, Commercial
Publishing

As the UAE cautiously reopens following the Covid-19 restrictions, it remains unclear exactly when and how many children will be heading back to classrooms.

With physical lessons temporarily on hold, schools, teachers, parents and pupils have all been forced to find new ways of adapting to the situation. Technology has been used to facilitate e-learning and UAE schools are taking special measures to ensure that pupils continue to receive the level of education required.

Bharat Mansukhani, Regional Managing Director – Middle East, International Schools Partnership, which owns and operates Nibras International School (NIS) and The Aquila School in Dubai, says that e-learning is monitored at its schools to ensure that their high standards continue during the restrictions.

“Our schools continually monitor the tools we use so that we are able to provide safer platforms that can deliver high-quality teaching and learning at ease,” he says. “Distance learning lessons are monitored by the leadership teams in all our schools to ensure our distance



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learning provision is of top quality.”

Mansukhani says that teaching targets have also been changed to facilitate e-learning at NIS, while simultaneously providing pupils with the education levels they need.

“The curriculum targets have been adapted for distance learning and our schools have made sure that each child is making progress and attainment

towards the curriculum goals in each grade level.”

Adapting to paperless learning

With the distribution of text books and paper temporarily disallowed, The Aquila School Dubai has adapted by providing materials online in both Arabic and English.

Mansukhani says that the school is also using new online programmes

to support students. “At ISP, our schools use online textbooks as much as we can. Our guided reading programmes are also using online resources for both Arabic and English. Our schools have also incorporated programmes like Reading Eggs and Mathletics to support our students in their distance learning.”

Mansukhani believes that online learning has been beneficial to students as it has allowed them to be more flexible with their approach to education, preparing them for the working world and providing them with skills they can use throughout their lives.

He also says that utilising technology for development can evolve their

online behaviour for the better.

Skills development

“Beyond the knowledge they are receiving through the curriculum, our students are further developing skills that they will use forever. Not only has distance learning begun to prepare them to be able to work from anywhere, but they are becoming informed digital citizens who are able to use technology as an enabler of progress rather than a disruptor.

“There are so many other skills that are being fine-tuned during this time – communication skills, presentation skills, the ability to prioritise, multitask, be self-motivated and, most of all, the



Bharat Mansukhani
International Schools
Partnership



Dr Jennifer Ricks
American Community
School of Abu Dhabi



Dr Paul Richards
American School of
Dubai



Sangita Chima
Amity School
Dubai

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SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES GO DIGITAL

● Here's how UAE schools are honouring the class of 2020 amid the coronavirus crisis

By CHIRANTI SENGUPTA
Deputy Editor,
Commercial Publishing

With campuses being shut in response to the pandemic, graduation for high-school seniors in UAE schools will look very different this year. However, schools are determined to make this as special for students and their families as they can, despite the current restrictions on gathering. "This year, no limousines are dropping grad-

uands at the venue, no lavish ceremonies are taking place in school auditoriums or hotel ballrooms, and we cannot have graduating class photos in front of the school prior to the ceremony – all of which would have traditionally taken place in a pre-Covid-19 world," says David Fitzgerald, Vice-President, Cluster Lead, GEMS Education. "So, yes, the format is different this year, but no less significant or celebratory."

"A number of GEMS Education schools have already held their graduation celebrations, and this year they did things a little differently, relying on technology to bring graduands together. But what remained a constant was the fact that this was a student-designed event that captured the essence of what graduation actually means: an acknowledgment

of what has been achieved, combined with the promise of what is to come."

Personalised delivery of diplomas

American School of Dubai (ASD) is also trying its best to ensure the show goes on and students don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime moment. "We have thought creatively and will ensure what we are doing is le-

gal under the health and safety guidelines of Dubai and the UAE," says Dr Paul Richards, Superintendent, ASD.

"ASD is hosting a virtual graduation ceremony tomorrow. On Friday and Saturday, high-school teachers and administrators will personally deliver diplomas and yearbooks to each graduate's home. We believe this personalised delivery from a cherished teacher

will be a special way for students to say goodbye and finish their time at ASD."

American Community School of Abu Dhabi (ACS) has taken the initiative to produce a film for its 2020 graduation ceremony. The 93 graduating seniors of the school will be featured in the film that will premiere at tonight's ceremony, which will be a high-quality, pre-recorded virtual event for the families and parents of the graduates. Using technology, every graduating senior will receive their diploma from their parents.

"So much more could be said about the ACS graduating class of 2020. But the words that best describe them are resilient and compassionate," says Amy Greene, High School Principal, in her pre-recorded speech in tonight's graduation ceremony. "Students, it is your empathy and genuine support for others that is the hope that our world needs."



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Giving pupils the skills to thrive beyond the classroom

opportunity to decide the type of learner they want to be."

Working with parents and business

Dr Jennifer Ricks, Director of Curriculum and Professional Learning, American Community School of Abu Dhabi, says that her school has been working alongside parents and UAE businesses to encourage students to embrace independent learning and develop new skills. "ACS works in partnership with parents and companies to empower students to shape their future," she says.

She believes the school's curriculum also empowers the pupils to take a flexible approach to their own personal development.

"Students progress through middle school empowered by a student-centred curriculum to grow in self-awareness and discover their talents. Our four core pillars, academics, athletics, arts and service, ensure that students gain skills across a platform of experiences developing their flexibility to adapt to any situation."

All-around needs

Sangita Chima, Principal, Amity School Dubai, says that the school has taken a number of steps to ensure that both the students' emotional and educational needs are met. "As a school student in the UAE, you get access to a range of online resources along with customised lesson plans to suit your child's educational and

BUILDING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

With students learning in isolation from their peers, schools say it is important to maintain a sense of community. According to Bharat Mansukhani, Regional Managing Director – Middle East, International Schools Partners (ISP), "When you are a part of an ISP school you are part of a community; we have ensured that our schools continue to come together as communities. Many of our schools continue to host school assemblies. They have live lessons that are purely aimed at

checking in on student well-being."

Sangita Chima, Principal, Amity School Dubai, also says that in addition to weekly meetings with parents, special measures have been taken to meet students' needs during distance learning. "Individual attention and counselling is also given to students who need support. Teachers continue to ensure that lessons and extracurricular activities are engaging, in order keep the essence of community alive among classmates and peers."

emotional needs. Virtual field trips are conducted by local museums, theatre sessions, STEM classes and more are regularly organised to ensure that learning is enjoyable and stim-

ulating for every child. This new digital way of learning will improve our students' knowledge, make them resilient and give them confidence for the next academic year."

Agrees Dr Paul Richards, Superintendent of American School of Dubai (ASD). He believes that the restrictions on face-to-face teaching have been beneficial in some respects, allowing students to independently learn online and his school plans to continue developing these new skills when the pupils return to campus. "We will leverage what worked well during the distance learning period through asynchronous assignments such as self-direction, self-pacing, differentiation and use of technology. When we have students on campus, we will leverage this opportunity by increasing feedback sessions, advisory meetings, and other opportunities that promote human connection and community. We believe the new normal will be a blended learning approach, and that it will be better." ■

GIIS

“Education can’t be purely a money transaction”

- Amol Vaidya, Senior Director Operations — Global School Foundation, tells us about the initiatives launched to help parents hit by the crisis and how the school will continue offering quality programmes and opportunities

BY KRITA COELHO
Staff Writer

Many parents are now more than ever facing challenges in paying school fees due to loss of income or unemployment. What steps have you taken to help UAE families navigate these unprecedented times with ease?

We have launched short-term initiatives and supported that with a couple of long-term initiatives. We are an Indian school so we are currently in the first term of the school year. The short-term initiatives are mainly to ensure that when a parent has a temporary drop in salary, a temporary situation of leave without pay, or a sudden loss of job, we provide them cover for the first term. In the Dubai campus, many parents have availed of our scheme called the Global Resilience Grant. However, in Abu Dhabi, the government has launched a single scheme for schools. We have kept our initiative on hold for the moment, but we may eventually launch it for parents who may have missed out on the government scheme for any reason.

We also believe that the economic difficulties will continue for many parents and because there is a small likelihood that many of them will want to go back, we have offered four to five types of scholarships from the second term onwards. One of them is the Zayed-Gandhi scholarship — for those parents suffering from loss of job or long-term reduction in salary. We have also launched a merit scholarship. At the same time that we back people in need, we also want to support students who are



● Amol Vaidya

showing merit even under the present circumstances. Both our initiatives — short term as well as long-term — will be given based on the nature of documents parents submit. I can confirm that 60 per cent of our students have benefited from some form of support or the other from the school, be it upfront concessions, staff ward concessions, or sibling concessions.

At a time when parents are reviewing their financial situation, many are exploring the option of moving children to schools offering high-quality education at an affordable rate? Why should parents consider GIIS?

Whether you like it or not, education can’t be purely a money transaction. It should be more about the value delivered to the student. While we accommodate people with financial difficulties, we also ensure that we offer many quality educational opportunities. We have also been hit by the crisis, but we understand that it should not affect the education of the child. We want to give them prospects that go beyond the simple transaction of the fees paid by the parent and recovered by the school. GIIS has never tried to keep education transactional and that is evident from the unique facilities and the programmes we offer.

What sets GIIS apart from other Indian schools in the UAE?

What sets us apart are the opportunities and programmes we offer. We have permissions from KHDA to offer two curriculums — CBSE and now the IB diploma. We operate an educational model called NINE GEMS™, defined as nine

characteristics of a global citizen. This covers academics, sports, leadership, technology, public speaking, personality development, fine arts, performing arts, innovation, entrepreneurship, and many other fields. We monitor and capture the performance of each child on a NINE GEMS™ report card, in which the academic score is just one part. Under this programme, we have created series of opportunities for students. In fact, we may be the only school to have a specialised centre for entrepreneurship and innovation. We have also set up an immersion centre where we keep all the latest technology such as VR, AI, and so on. We even have our own radio station managed by children. The idea is to expose students to various programmes. We offer a virtual after school programme free of cost to all our students from 4pm to 6pm. This programme involves 45 minutes of three sessions, five days a week, offering everything from physical education, to art, music, and dance. We

conduct Weekend of Wonder (WOW) programmes on weekends. Right now, we are conducting nine weeks of free photography classes in partnership with Nikon. We have set up idea walls in the campus (now online) — where teachers will put up a challenge for students to offer suggestions. We ratify and rate the suggestions and the three best ones get awards. We also have a unique programme called Student Leadership Summit, which is organised by students, conceptualised by students, and contested by students. We just offer mentoring and technical support to execute it. We also do global school exchange programmes with GIIS campuses in other countries.

We are very proud to offer one of the strongest early year programmes. When we started the virtual education, both our kindergarten departments in Dubai and Abu Dhabi outperformed all other campuses on the way our teachers managed to engage three-year-olds into the whole online teaching process.

How do you plan to conduct admissions for the term starting in September? Are you planning to offer discounts on registration, tuition etc?

We have many schemes, grants and concessions to offer. Parents have to approach us for the admission process, discuss and sort out what works best for them. Our support system is need based so we will assess the situation and give it accordingly. Our objective is to make every child who comes to us an empathy-filled responsible global citizen.

How my school shaped my life

- Students discuss how their schools have set them on the path to success

“My biggest and most important educational goal is to become a lawyer, and through my many years at Nibras, I am steps closer to realising this dream. Nibras has provided its students with various electives, AP courses and debate clubs, which help us with our preparations for universities. Personally, I gained many benefits from these courses. Not only have I been supported by Nibras educationally but also emotionally. I am pushed and motivated to do my best by all teachers and supervisors. Nibras truly feels like my second home.”

Maya Maklad
Grade 11, Nibras
International School



“My school has helped me in more ways than I could have imagined. From their engaging lessons to their nurturing environment fostering a close staff/student bond, it's nothing short of amazing. When I started at The Aquila School, I had two things in mind — sports and academics, and I have always wanted to become a lawyer. My Year 6 teacher introduced me to debating and encouraged me to think about topics like justice and equality. She encouraged me to speak my mind and supported me with my learning targets. Going on to Year 7, I received the same kind of support from my teachers. The opportunities I received in Aquila in representing our school in sports are unparalleled. From winning the netball division league as a captain to representing our school in swimming, I have achieved a lot as a student of The Aquila School. The school continues to support my musical aspirations, allowing me to showcase my piano performances. Practical experiences gained from organising events like the school opening and KHDA tours all allowed me to absorb, practise and apply the learnings our teachers instilled into us.”

Ayesha
Year 7, The Aquila School



“Being an ASD student since kindergarten, the school has shaped me into a person who is driven, passionate, empathic and has a greater worldview — the ability to understand situations from a variety of different perspectives. This has come from the immense impact my teachers have had on me and the amazing opportunities offered at the school such as service trips. Through my time at the school, I have also been guided through the process of choosing a university that will help fulfil my vision.”

Leya Samhoun
Class of 2020,
American School of
Dubai (ASD)



“GIIS has helped me achieve my long-term educational goals in various ways. The school has given me the opportunity to work as an active member of the student council, which helped improve my leadership, public speaking and decision-making skills, and develop a range of soft skills. Since GIIS is an international school, it harbours a multicultural environment allowing us to mingle with people from various cultures and nationalities. The school regularly offers career counselling programmes, which prepare us for the world beyond the school and help us to choose the right career path. Leadership lecture series are also held at the school where eminent personalities from various fields share their experiences and advice with us.”

Angel Ann Jacob
Grade 12, Global Indian
International School
(GIIS) Abu Dhabi



“When I grow up, I want to be an artificial intelligence specialist. My teachers at Amity School Dubai have helped me set realistic goals at every stage and I continuously try to achieve them. The projects assigned to us during STEAM classes have helped me bring about innovative solutions to common problems. My perspective on future technology has changed immensely as my dream solutions can now become a reality. Although we miss each other now due to distance learning, we get a lot of opportunities to mingle with our friends and share our thoughts online.”

Nabroon Das
Grade 6, Amity School Dubai



“ACS has taught me many things, but it is the importance of hard work and self-confidence that will best prepare me for the future. My teachers continuously emphasised that a student is not learning unless he/she is struggling, which has given me a rich understanding of work ethic and that perseverance pays off. Additionally, some of my best work was created when I felt confident in my decisions. I've watched my classmates take risks, grow and become the confident individuals they are today because of the nurturing environment that ACS fostered.”

Samir Maarouf
Senior, American
Community School of Abu
Dhabi (ACS)



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RETHINK EDUCATION TO STAY RELEVANT

● Schools that adapt to changes get ahead, and that's why UAE schools are constantly turning to creative teaching strategies to make learning more impactful during uncertain times. Here's what heads from leading schools told **Chiranti Sengupta**

ACCELERATE PERSONALISATION OF THE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE



Dr Paul Richards,
Superintendent,
American School of
Dubai (ASD)

The coronavirus crisis has opened doors to rethink education. How do you plan to create a new future for your school?

If schools are not rethinking education, their path toward irrelevance, and possibly bankruptcy, will be hastened. ASD will not change its mission, core values, or graduate profile, but we will make changes in how we deliver on these. We will accelerate personalisation and relevancy of the school experience through a blended approach to learning, where some aspects of the school experience will be in-person, and others asynchronous. Students will see more coursework in design, innovation, business, entrepreneurship, global citizenship, and other high-interest content.

Considering the students' experience of the past few months, do you think this is a good time to introduce a personalised, competency-based education system?

The pandemic offers the urgency that has been lacking to introduce a more personalized, competency-based experience for all students. ASD is a member of the US-based Mastery Transcript Consortium, a collection of some of the finest independent and international schools, who are committed to this initiative. Online learning has proven that many students not only prefer this system, but they can thrive under it. Students should demand that their schools not return to business as usual. Schools doing this will do so at its own peril.

IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES FOR POSITIVE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES



Ramesh Mudgal,
Principal, GHS Dubai

How do you support students when they struggle with certain aspects of the curriculum?

Student learning is monitored as an ongoing process with the help of various education platforms. Effective learning strategies are implemented during the lessons to ensure positive learning outcomes. Detailed actionable feedback enables students to get a clear

understanding of the concept and acquire subject skills. Remedial lessons are planned for students needing individual attention.

Covid-19 has thrust education institutes into the world of e-learning. How do you evaluate your e-learning programme, ensuring that you meet all the targets of a course?

Internal quality assurance and monitoring are critical to make any e-learning programme successful. At GHS, quality assurance is implemented in various ways, which include daily walk-ins into online virtual classrooms by the heads of departments and the principal; formal lesson observations and rating of lessons as per KHDA inspection framework; peer observation and suggestions to teachers, and regular feedback from parents through online meetings.

MAXIMISE PUPIL ENGAGEMENT



Wayne Howsen,
Principal, The Aquila
School

The pandemic has uncovered plenty of opportunities for new and ingenious ways of learning. What

are the key lessons the education sector can learn from the coronavirus crisis?

While we realise that nothing can replace the buzz of being together in school, with some careful planning it can be closely replicated through learning at home.

At The Aquila School, because we were already using certain technologies to promote learning at home, we needed to become more innovative with whole school learning events.

We hosted a virtual iftar during Ramadan, had Thursday project days, and this week every class in school is carrying out an enquiry-based learning task.

The key lesson is to maximise pupil engagement and learn from new opportunities with a sense of positivity.

How do you plan to adapt to changes brought on by the pandemic and create a resilient future for your school?

While we are still waiting on guidance on what re-opening will look like, when we re-open, three things will continue to matter – safety, well-being and of course learning. We will look at every opportunity to provide on-premise learning and ensuring that we are able to have the broadest curriculum offering, while maintaining the safety of our pupils and staff.

KEEP STUDENTS MOTIVATED AND KEEN TO LEARN



Daspo Yiappos, Head of
Learning and Teaching,
Nibras International
School (NIS)

How are remote learning solutions taking shape at NIS during the period of campus closure?

Distance Learning at NIS has continued to evolve. With regular feedback from our parents, students and teachers, we have modified the platforms we use, and the type of lessons provided have also been modified to ensure ease of understanding, use and most importantly, an increased rate of engagement.

Live lessons and the use of Google Classrooms have been tools that have proven to enhance the distance learning experience at NIS. Whole school events, assemblies and virtual coffee mornings for our parents have also been key in making sure our entire community come together. A variety of sports, arts and music challenges ensure that the social and emotional needs of students are being met.

We have continued to ensure all students are able to access the course material and it is modified to all learning needs. Furthermore, planning virtual field trips and guest speakers have kept students motivated and keen to learn. Recently, our Model United Nations students successfully organized and hosted a Virtual MUN conference, where they had 50 students from four other International Schools Partnership (ISP) schools from the UAE and globally.

As the head of Nibras, how are you preparing for life after Covid-19?

Our entire school team, supported by ISP, are exploring a variety of different scenarios for September. While we are waiting for more guidance from authorities on school reopening, we have our guiding principles around reopening at Nibras International School.

Any decision made will ensure that we maximise as much on-premise learning and offer the broadest curriculum possible while maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff. We believe our guiding principles make us well-prepared for reopening whenever that happens and allows us to be responsive to suit our parents' and students' needs. Our school mission remains to provide a safe and healthy environment where learning remains central.



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*Partial list of matriculation available at time of printing.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

PREPARE CHILDREN FOR THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE



Monique Flickinger, Superintendent, American Community School of Abu Dhabi

Will blended learning become a new normal for schools as we continue to practice social distancing? What are the best ways to implement blended learning in schools?

The misconception is that schools should replicate face-to-face learning online. And that is when students struggle with certain aspects of the curriculum. Blended learning is really about capitalising on the best practices in remote learning and on-campus learning. This blend is a paradigm shift from traditional methods. Because schools are now focusing on digital literacy, problem solving and creativity, students will be able to succeed in the fourth industrial revolution.

New student-driven projects are meaningful and often created for a worldwide audience instead of traditional work submitted to achieve a grade. By combining the best of both educational practices, students become highly capable of being successful in the workforce of the future.

FOLLOW PRINCIPLES OF INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING



Dr Heena Rachh, Principal, Global Indian International School (GIIS) Abu Dhabi

What steps have you taken to deliver career-focused education in your school?

At GIIS, the younger generations are educated in a way that they are ready for life and the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We also make them AI-ready from kindergarten. GIIS, Global Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship offers science and technology-oriented projects such as robotics, rocketry and engineering.

Integrated learning solutions have now become widespread in most schools in the UAE. How do you support the digital infrastructure requirements of students while retaining traditional textbooks as the base?

We use audio-visual content of textbooks and digital infrastructure/ virtual learning while keeping highly structured and standardized textbooks as the base. We also assign future-market projects to students such as web designing, creating an infographic, producing a series of podcasts and making an explainer video. Principles of interdisciplinary learning, emphasis on project-based STEAM and integration of AI equip our students with the right skills to prepare them for higher education, workplace, and citizenship in the 21st century.

FOCUS ON CURRICULAR INNOVATION



Sangita Chima, Principal, Amity School Dubai

How has the Amity School Dubai adapted its curriculum for a digital learning future?

We formed a curriculum design team, tasked with creating exciting, imaginative and practical concepts for online learners, keeping in mind that our parents have become home-school teachers overnight. Our approach includes easy-to-follow DIY instructions to ensure the seamless use of online platforms, on-screen-off-screen balance, knowledge checks with regular feedback at every stage, measuring progress through formative online assessments and the exchange of ideas and opinions among classmates to nurture friendships. Blended learning, personalised learning and active student participation are the drivers of curricular innovation.

What steps have you taken to deliver career-focused education?

Our goal is to impart key life skills through activity based learning that will build a student's self-awareness, communication skills, problem solving techniques, creative thinking styles, interpersonal skills and empathy. Students also set goals for themselves based on interest, future ambitions and career goals, they then work on achieving them over the academic year with the help of their teachers. We follow a STEAM integrated curriculum with an emphasis on coding in all related subjects.

ADVERTISER'S CONTENT

THE AQUILA SCHOOL

Away from school but never apart



BY LEE FABIA
Head of Secondary,
The Aquila School

In my first few weeks at The Aquila School, I never dreamt that I would be working from home in the UK, literally thousands of miles away from my new colleagues, pupils and their families. However, despite not being able to travel to Dubai yet, I am in awe of all things at Aquila.

The school truly puts

learning and its learners first. I have greatly admired the sense of camaraderie between staff and the palpable sense of community, as all staff work closely together, valuing happiness and school connectedness. Teachers at The Aquila School are relentless in ensuring pupils make the most progress possible – their creativity and ingenuity in ensuring learning is amazing, even at home, and is clearly having a positive impact on pupils' progress and well-being.

The smiles on the faces of pupils and enthusiasm for learning when they interact with their teachers and school friends are evidence of how



strong pupil and teacher relationships are at the school. Many of our families have expressed their thanks and gratitude as they too see the demonstrable impact distance learning is having on their children, both academically and emotionally during this difficult time.

Our relationships at

Aquila are not limited to the pupils; we are just as committed to our families. We have provided discounts for term three, for the 2020-2021 academic year, and for those who have been affected financially by the pandemic. Alongside the financial well-being, we have placed an emphasis on the emo-

tional well-being of our parents, whether it is through messages sent by our principal, or by arranging access to wellness experts.

When you join The Aquila School, you not only join a school that puts your child's learning first, but you join a community where you are valued.

NIBRAS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (NIS)

A NEW TEAM, A NEW PURPOSE

● Educators will focus on further improving the academic outcomes at Nibras International School



International Schools Partnership (ISP), a global group of schools that owns and operates Nibras International School (NIS), has appointed Dr Jay Teston as the new principal for the 2020 – 2021 academic year.

Dr Teston has over 33 years of experience as an educator, with 25 of these years at schools in the USA. He has extensive US-based and international experience in leadership roles, and for the past eight years, he has been the School Director at Qingdao No.1 International School of Shandong Province in China.

“We are excited to welcome Dr Teston to NIS and the ISP family,” said Bharat Mansukhani, Managing Director, ISP Middle East.

“Some of the many things that stood out about Dr Teston included his experience with turning around schools using

both Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes. He has spent many years working on curriculum enhancements and improving student outcomes through enquiry-based and project-based learning approaches. We know these achievements, coupled with his experience in recruitment and teacher professional development, will all play a crucial role in further improving the academic outcomes at NIS,” Mansukhani added.

Dr Teston, who is scheduled to arrive in Dubai this summer, has taken the new appointment as his renewed purpose. “The moment I decided to join the Nibras International School community, I immediately felt excited, relieved and empowered,” he said. “I knew I found my new purpose and my new educational mission.”



Dr Jay Teston
Principal

Earlier this year NIS welcomed two other senior educators to their leadership team.

Daspo Yiappos, the new Head of Teaching and Learning at NIS, has over 15 years of experience in the education industry in the Middle East. She is an accomplished international educator with vast school improvement skills. Previously, she was the Director of Education at BEAM schools and has also led inspections for KHDA. Yiappos is a visionary leader and strategic advisor who has



Daspo Yiappos
Head of Teaching and Learning

proven her expertise in teaching, learning, school transformation, strategic planning, leadership coaching, learning observations, academic feedback and evaluation along with improvement planning.

Gary William has joined NIS as the new Head of Secondary School. With over 25 Years of experience in Dubai, Oman and London, William has been a key member of many teams that have led school improvement plans. He has been recognised as an exemplary educator and



Gary William
Head of Secondary School

is passionate, innovative and highly motivated. He will aim to inspire the students and will support the school's ethos of empowering students to achieve their potential as learners and responsible global citizens.

NIS – Dubai is one of the few affordable American curriculum schools in Dubai.

NIS is NEASC accredited, a globally recognised standard of excellence through which students get accepted to some of the best universities around the world.

Make the right move

● Looking for a school for your toddler and don't know where to start? Or want to transfer your child to a better one in light of the changes Covid-19 has brought about? Here's our pick of some of the top UAE educational institutions to help you zero in on the perfect school for your child

GN FOCUS REPORT

GLOBAL INDIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (GIIS)



● Dubai Campus



● Abu Dhabi Campus

KEY STRENGTHS

Singapore's leading international school, GIIS opened its doors to students in Abu Dhabi in 2015 and in Dubai in 2017. The campus in Dubai has a dual curriculum — enriched CBSE and IBDP, while GIIS Abu Dhabi offers enriched CBSE. Both campuses follow an award-winning pedagogy revolving around nine key skill sets for the 21st century — 9GEMSTM, as well as a global Montessori plus programme for early years.

The schools offer strong value-added programmes like Global Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (GCIE) and Nikon kids photography club, virtual ASA Programmes and creative virtual weekend activities under WOW.

DUBAI CAMPUS

ADMISSION DETAILS

Call 800GIISDXB (800 444-7392) or 055 191 5500; WhatsApp 056 768 7040; Email admissions.dxb2@globallindianschool.org

For more information, visit Dubai.globalindianschool.org/admissions/admissions-process

VIRTUAL TOUR

Ae.globalindianschool.org/dubai/the-school/virtual-tour

TUITION FEES

Starting at Dh15,000

SCHOLARSHIPS

Keeping market situations due to Covid-19 in mind, the school offers a resilience grant of up to 35 per cent on tuition fees. GIIS also has scholarship for meritorious students, giving up to 50 per cent discount on tuition fees

Dubai.globalindianschool.org/

ABU DHABI CAMPUS

ADMISSION DETAILS

Call 052 218 1585; WhatsApp 056 768 7040; email admissions.abudhabi@globallindianschool.org

For more information, visit Abudhabi.globalindianschool.org/admissions/admissions-process

VIRTUAL TOUR

Ae.globalindianschool.org/abu-dhabi/the-school/virtual-tour

TUITION FEES

Starting at Dh10,600

SCHOLARSHIP

The school offers means and meritorious scholarship to eligible candidates. Contact the admission team for more details.

Abudhabi.globalindianschool.org

THE AQUILA SCHOOL



KEY STRENGTHS

Part of International Schools Partnership (ISP), a global group of 45 schools around the world, The Aquila School is rated excellent in all areas by British School Overseas (BSO). With fantastic facilities, designed to enrich every child's learning experience, The Aquila School offers British curriculum. Amazing learning is its core purpose, delivering education through a design thinking mindset and a problem-solving approach. The school has British qualified and experienced teachers.

ADMISSION DETAILS

Contact Aliaa Ibrahim, Head of Admissions; Call 04 586 2777 or 052 249 9844 (admission) and 04 586 2700 (Reception)

VIRTUAL TOUR

Coming soon. To know more about its facilities, visit Theaquilaschool.com/campus-facilities/

TUITION FEES AND DISCOUNTS

The Aquila School has a multi-year discount scheme, which applies to all families for the next three academic years, starting from September 2020.

For 2020/21 academic year: 25 per cent off on KHDA-approved fees; for 2021/22 academic year: 20 per cent off on KHDA-approved fees and for 2022/23 academic year: 15 per cent off on KHDA-approved fees. The school also offers sibling discounts: 5 per cent off for the second child, 10 per cent off for third and subsequent children.

Corporate discounts are also available.

Theaquilaschool.com

NIBRAS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (NIS)



KEY STRENGTHS

Offering an affordable, quality American curriculum, NIS is a New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)-accredited international school — this allows students to get accepted to top universities internationally. Being a part of International

al Schools Partnership, a global group of schools, NIS boasts outstanding educational connections, quality assurance and excellent governance. NIS gives its students access to unique global learning opportunities and a wide range of enrichment activities through clubs like the NIS Sports Academy or partnerships with organisations such as AC Milan Academy, Dubai. Its teachers are highly experienced and passionate educators, and well-being and happiness are a priority at NIS.

ADMISSION DETAILS

NIS registers students in age-appropriate year groups in accordance with KHDA guidelines. An enquiry is ideally followed by an application, assessment, registration upon acceptance and fees payment. To know more about the admissions procedure, email at admissions@nisdubai.ae or call 04 8853330.

VIRTUAL TOUR

Coming soon

TUITION FEES AND DISCOUNTS

KG 1 and KG 2: Dh22, 827; Grades 1 to 3: Dh25, 479; Grades 4 to 6: Dh31, 761; Grades 7 to 9: Dh38, 394; Grades 10 to 12: Dh45, 374. NIS offers sibling and Refer a Friend discounts of 5 per cent on tuition fees; reduction of Dh2,000 on registration fees to offset the first installment of the tuition fees and full Dh500-waiver of application fees.

Nisdubai.ae

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF DUBAI (ASD)



KEY STRENGTHS

Established in 1966, The American School of Dubai is a not-for-profit, US-curriculum, PreK-12 international community school. The school has a celebrated history, not-for-profit status and a strong community. Winner of numerous sustainability and service excellence awards, ASD offers onsite extracurricular activities, AP courses and world-class facilities.

ADMISSION DETAILS

Asdubai.org/admissions/admission-policies

VIRTUAL TOUR

These 360-degree campus highlights feature its world-class learning spaces, including its 630-seat performing arts theatre and sample classrooms.

Asdubai.org/admissions/virtual-tours

TUITION FEES AND DISCOUNTS

Dh56,000 - Dh82,581

The not-for-profit status is an important feature of ASD as it supports the ability of the school to focus on the quality of education over satisfying any profit or investment expectations of owners or shareholders.

Asdubai.org

AMITY SCHOOL DUBAI

KEY STRENGTHS

A co-ed CBSE curriculum school in the heart of Dubai, Amity School delivers a holistic education model that aims to encourage a child's academic, social and emotional growth.

ADMISSION DETAILS

Email registrar@amitydubai.ae;

Call 04 204 1003

TUITION FEES

Starting at 13,000

Amityschooldubai.com



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF ABU DHABI (ACS)



KEY STRENGTHS

Mission: It empowers all students to define and shape their future for learning, service and global citizenship

Vision: ACS is a compassionate, student-centred community of learners that engages, prepares and inspires.

Core values: Courage. Curiosity. Compassion. Integrity

Approaches to learning: ACS delivers excellence through an innovative curriculum that promotes creativity, self-expression and a unique approach to learning that develops: collaborative team members; responsible individuals; self-directed learners and global citizens

ADMISSION DETAILS

For information, visit Acs.sch.ae/admissions

TUITION FEES

KG1 - Dh47,200; KG2 - Grade 5 Dh70,700; Grade 6 - 8 Dh71,500; Grade 9 - 12 Dh85,500

VIRTUAL TOUR

Acs.sch.ae/about-us/campus

Acs.sch.ae

SPRINGDALES SCHOOL DUBAI

KEY STRENGTHS

Springdales helps all students achieve intellectual growth and success, by aiding them in reaching their true potential through an extensive range of enrichment, extracurricular and sporting activities in state-of-the-art facilities. It gives a strong emphasis on developing independence, creativity, critical thinking and using ICT to enrich learning. The school also offers high-quality early childhood experiences.

ADMISSION DETAILS

Admissions are open from Pre-KG- Grade 12; Call 04 338 1311

VIRTUAL TOUR

[Youtube.com/user/springdalesdubai/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/springdalesdubai/videos)

TUITION FEES

Dh14,000- Dh32,000

Springdalesdubai.com



LIWA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Liwa International School is an established all-through international school with a strong reputation across the emirate of Abu Dhabi and Al Ain for academic success, high standards of professionalism, and teacher quality. It was founded in 1992 and has grown in size and strength ever since.

Liwa International School is an active member of the global network of Unesco schools and closely follows the rigorous standards of the American Curriculum, while incorporating national agenda goals such as moral education and tolerance to promote meaningful contributions to society, both now and for many years after graduation.

Liwaschool.ae

LIWA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (LISG)

LISG is also committed to providing the American Curriculum and aims to support young women to become future leaders of the UAE. This is done through developing 21st-century skills and creating a student empowerment school ethos.

LISG also ensures that provisions are integrated to support advancing arts and technology in a learning-focused environment and is fully committed to ensuring that students have meaningful opportunities to regularly engage in e-learning, and STEM programmes and activities that encourage creativity and innovation.

Lisg.ae

LIWA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – AL MUSHRIF

Liwa International School – Al Mushrif is situated in the thriving downtown Mushrif area of Abu Dhabi and offers a vibrant and holistic international education where the modern-day needs of young people are understood and utilised to engage students in learning, encourage intellectual risk-taking and pursue a healthy, rounded lifestyle.

The school also follows the rigorous standards of the American Curriculum, while incorporating National Agenda goals such as moral education and tolerance. The curriculum explores opportunities to develop students' understanding of Emirati national identity, innovative skills and practice.

Lism.ae



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF ABU DHABI

Creative ways to mark graduation during Covid-19

Faced with how to celebrate the graduating class of 2020 during this time of physical distancing, The American Community School (ACS) of Abu Dhabi got creative. To represent their journey through school, each senior is featured in a super-sized banner mounted on the school's exterior wall starting at the elementary gate and ending at the high-school gate.

Each banner is hung in a very special order beginning with the 11 students who arrived at ACS in their kindergarten year, followed by the 29 who arrived in elementary school, 21 who arrived in middle school and the remaining 40 who joined ACS in high school.

"While this might not be the graduation we thought



we would have, this is a creative addition to the celebration of the class of 2020," said Monique Flickinger, ACS Superintendent.

"A large majority of the community drives by our school daily and we wanted a very visual reminder of these amazing stu-

dents. We hope this small act will demonstrate how very important the members of the Class of 2020 are to our community,"

added Amy Greene, ACS High School Principal.

In addition to this, last Sunday, the school launched the Senior Week, which leads up to the school's virtual broadcast of its graduation this evening, along with a special Celebrating Our Seniors section on the ACS website (acs.sch.ae/students/class-of-2020) to recognise this very special class.

The words that best describe the ACS' graduating class of 2020 are resilient and compassionate. "Congratulations! We are so very proud of you," said Greene.

The school is proud to share with the Abu Dhabi community the next generation of global citizens ready to make a difference.

SPRINGDALES SCHOOL

Quintessentially Indian, innovatively international

Springdales is a school where independent inquiry, creativity and innovation are highly valued. Its dedicated teachers accompany children on their personalised learning journey, providing a safe and friendly learning environment which promotes questioning, dialogue and collaborative problem solving.

Springdales School is a contemporary organisation albeit steeped in a history of success that is strongly focused on learning and growing with each child, committed to the future development of young people who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Central to the school ethos is the understanding that every child is unique and therefore has differ-



ent motivations, interests and needs but all students learn best through authentic learning experiences linked to their real-life, not ours.

Springdales' student results have been improving every year and are now consistently at an excel-

lent level throughout all of the student attainment measures associated with the robust CBSE curriculum.

The school is very focussed on whole-child development, providing not only traditional academic subjects but also

offering courses in music, food technology, e-learning, mobile applications, gaming, specialised PE activities, sports, performing arts, media and film. Attention is on skill development and performance levels for outstanding performers whilst ensuring

everyone is offered a programme that challenges and encourages them to reach their personal best with maximum enjoyment.

At Springdales School, teachers are committed to unlocking the potential in each child with an attitude of 'we learn from them as much as they learn from us', celebrating effort and achievement equally.

If you want a school that offers your child the best of academia, strong values and likes to have fun, then Springdales is the school for you. Its admissions are open from pre-KG and it provides an all-through education to Grade 12.

Call Springdales on 04 338 2123 to organise a tour of the school and begin your Springdales journey.



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

OF ABU DHABI *SINCE 1972*



*Empowering
Students
to Shape the
Future*



84%

of students accepted
to at least one of their
top 3 college choices



9:1

student to
faculty ratio



65%

teachers with
advanced degrees



10,000+

student service
hours annually



56

number of nationalities
represented at ACS



1,200+

students enrolled
at ACS



1972

founded



100+

academic programs
(IB/AP)

ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

MSA Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

IBO International Baccalaureate Organization

NESA Near East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools

MESAC Middle East South Asia Conference

AAIE Association for the Advancement of International Education

AISH Academy of International School Heads

ASCD Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

IACAC International Association for College Admission Counseling

NACAC National Association for College Admission Counseling

ASCA American School Counselor Association

www.acs.sch.ae

P.O. Box: 42114, Abu Dhabi

United Arab Emirates

Ph: +971-2-681-5115

Follow us on



AMERICAN SCHOOL OF DUBAI

ASD honours its top scholars, leaders, artists and athletes of the class of 2020



● American School of Dubai's Wall of Graduates to honour the Class of 2020

On Monday, the American School of Dubai (ASD) recognised students who have made significant contributions to the school community. The Senior Awards is an annual event to celebrate student excellence in the areas of academics, arts, athletics, service and leadership.

This year's class valedictorian and salutatorian, the two students with the highest record of academic achievement, are Mohamed Malek Abid and Renee Garg.

"The twelve years I have spent at ASD have been instrumental in helping me grow as a creative and scientific student," says Abid, Valedictorian, Class of 2020. "The flexible academic programme allowed me to delve into a variety of courses, while the unique community enabled me to develop leadership skills through clubs, theatre and sports."

Other Senior Awards include the Distinguished Service Award: Yasmin Gulamhusein; Award for International Understanding: Sana Khan; The Bob Ackerman Award for Excellence in Technological Innovation: Albaraa Jadallah; Senior Arts Award: Christina Azzi; The Dale Haus Waldoch Visual Art Award: Zaina Tripp; The Mike



● Mohamed Malek Abid, Valedictorian, Class of 2020

Ross Athletic Award: Iker Yturralde; The Megan Garrison Athletic Award: Sarah Austin; Sikander Shallwani Senior Business Award: Ramy Shaalan; and The Ambassador's Award for Academic Excellence: June Lee.

In addition, three senior athletes are planning to pursue their passions at the collegiate level. These students have committed to their universities to compete at the next level of their sports: Eshaan Lum-



● Aleena Abbasi, National Merit Scholar, Class of 2020

ba at Pomona College (Tennis), Iker Yturralde at Tulane University (Cross Country/Track & Field), and Karim Abu Ltaif at Merrimack College (Soccer).

Aleena Abbasi receives National Merit Scholarship Award

A National Merit Scholarship Award is the highest academic recognition from the NMSC and often hailed as the pinnacle of ac-

ademic achievement. In March, ASD student Aleena Abbasi was elated to find out that she had received the honour. Abbasi was also awarded ASD's Principal's Award for general excellence, and substantial scholarships from several universities including Vanderbilt University, North Carolina State University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

She has chosen to attend Temple University in the Fall as an Honours Student with a full-tuition merit award. She will study in the BS/MD programme, fulfilling a lifelong goal to practise medicine.

Throughout her six years at ASD, Aleena has been involved in a variety of service, environmental, academic, and music extracurriculars. She is an active member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, and Tri-M Music Honor Society.

"I am appreciative of the opportunities that ASD has provided me with and would not be who I am today without the support of the ASD community," says Abbasi. "I will miss being part of such a tight-knit, diverse community where I had the freedom to explore my passions and make an impact in my own way."

AMITY SCHOOL DUBAI

Unique ways to prepare students for the challenges of the world

Amity School Dubai believes in a holistic education model that focuses on developing different stages of a child's growth, academically, socially and emotionally. The school encourages curiosity and interactive learning.

Amity School Dubai is an extraordinary learning organisation offering an enriched and enhanced CBSE curriculum from Pre KG to Grade 8. The 14-acre, state-of-the-art campus in Al Qusais is designed to inspire young adults and parents, seeking a dynamic and vibrant educational system. The school aims to provide a seamless learning atmosphere that enables students to create exceptional work that positively impacts their community. Amity uses unique ways to nurture students and prepare them for the challenges of the world.

Amity School Dubai's education model focuses on preparing students to understand and solve



problems. The unique learning programme (ULP) at Amity provides students with sound knowledge and the ability to collaborate and create, turning their ideas into a reality. The dynamic curriculum designed by experienced teachers, supports the development of students and helps them become

well-rounded citizens who add value to the community.

Its skilled co-learners (teachers) enable students to pursue soft skills, extracurricular and personality-enhancing activities with a keen focus on academic excellence. The co-scholastic pursuit includes an innovative STEAM

approach embedded with creative arts, performing arts, physical education and mindfulness.

Extraordinary learning spaces inspire young Amitians each day with limitless learning opportunities centred around large, naturally lit classrooms with flexible seating and integrated technology, designed to enable dynamic learning. To facilitate the experiential learning journey, Amity School Dubai has exceptional facilities such as

- iPad hubs, STEAM workshops, ICT Labs, Science Labs, Mathematics Labs
- Creative Art Studios, an Atelier, Performing Art arena, Music Studios
- Library with a wide range of resources and information
- Extensive sports facilities, full-size football field, 200m track for athletics, a large multi-purpose hall with multiple indoor games and a swimming pool

LIWA EDUCATION

Offering international education, inspired by national values

Liwa Education is a leading provider of KG to Grade 12 education in the Al Ain and Abu Dhabi region of the UAE with a strong reputation for academic success, high standards of professionalism, staff development, teacher loyalty and an oversubscribed student population.

Its schools offer a vibrant and holistic international education where students are challenged and engaged. Additionally, its schools enable students to not only make the most of their talents and to take intellectual risks but also pursue a healthy, rounded lifestyle; and to contribute to society in various ways, which forms a key part of Liwa's educational experiences.

During these challenging times, Liwa Education aims to deliver effective continuation of learning for its students. Liwa Education's Distance Learning pillars were quickly established and became the basis of its implementation plan. Its E-Learning policy has a very clear



● Liwa International School – Al Mushrif

vision: Leveraging new technology to transform learning.

Liwa Education's vision and the identification of clear drivers for success has resulted in a skilled

workforce and a student body well adept at using the various digital platforms. The transition of Liwa schools to distance learning has been an exciting one.

This holistic learning experience develops the key core skills of leadership, creativity and imagination, essential for personal growth and development of young people in the 21st Century.

The founding school, Liwa International has grown over the past two decades into a flourishing American curriculum school with over 2,500 students and a strong reputation for its high quality of teaching and learning.

Its second school, Liwa International School for Girls (LISG), opened four years ago in Al Ain with the provision of an advanced arts and technological learning focused environment, coupled with a broad and balanced extra-curricular programme, including community outreach work.

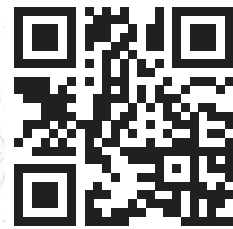
With the Liwa model and approach in mind, Liwa International School – Al Mushrif (LISM) was opened last year in the Mushrif area of Abu Dhabi.

Let your child's **imagination GROW**, their **curiosity DEVELOP** and their **brilliance SHINE**

Give Your Child Wings to Fly



SCAN & GET YOUR WINGS



مدرسة سبرينج دايلز دبي

SPRINGDALES SCHOOL DUBAI

Call 971 4 338 1311 or 971 55 872 9599

admissions@springdalesdubai.com | www.springdalesdubai.com